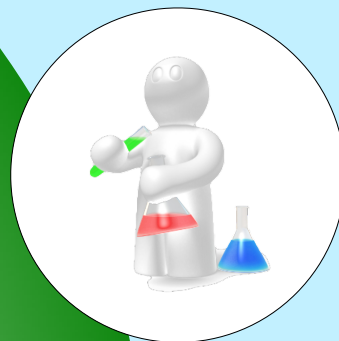


County Pathology Ltd

Laboratory User Guide 2014-2015

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Request Requirements

To minimise confusion and error in the laboratory we have user specific request forms, with an area devoted to common requests from a particular doctor or clinic. New users need to set this up or use our generic request form. We require a minimum of 3 identifiers on the form and the samples. We suggest Forename, Surname and Date of Birth or Unique patient ID number (e.g. Clinic number). Please write the date and time of collection on the form and sample together with any relevant clinical information and clearly indicate the tests required. The laboratory is able to correct minor spelling errors, but samples that do not meet our labelling criteria will be rejected. The request form needs to be completed and include any relevant clinical information, drugs and, where applicable, the site where the sample was taken from. Anonymous samples can be processed but we require the patient's initials, their date of birth and a unique identifier, such as a clinic number. Samples that are sent out of the EU or require genetic testing will require patient consent and suitable forms can be supplied. Samples that are classed as high risk must be clearly labelled on the form and the sample container (High risk stickers are available). Please note that the laboratory is unable to handle Group 4 pathogens, these will be incinerated without opening.

Samples are generally stored for 1 week unless longer term storage is requested. Additional tests can be requested on these samples by phoning 01483-450-388 or e-mail to info@countypathology.co.uk. Please note that verbally requested tests will not be released until written confirmation is received.

Advice

The laboratory can provide advice on using the laboratory correctly (Including testing protocols, special precautions, and reference ranges) and provide specialist clinical advice and interpretation. Should you require this service please contact Bill Wreford on 01483-450-388.

Sample Transport

The way in which samples are transported to the laboratory depends on the type and speed of testing required. We can arrange for same day or overnight couriers, and postal services. Please contact the laboratory to arrange the best solution for your needs.

Referral Laboratories

While we endeavour to do as many tests on site as possible we cannot offer them all. If you request a test we do not do on site we will refer it to the laboratory of your choice or to one we have selected which offers the most cost effective high quality service.

Reports

Results for most routine tests we carry out on site are normally available within 3 hours of arrival in the laboratory.

Report formats can be tailored to an individual clients requirements with single or cumulative versions available. We can also produce a graphical report for an individual test to show how values change over time. This is useful with tests such as tumour markers that are used to follow a patients treatment.

The normal/therapeutic/risk ranges are printed on the report and are adjusted for age and sex. All results outside these ranges are flagged and highlighted in red.

Our reports are printed on A4 paper and they can be posted, faxed or sent as an encrypted .pdf attachment to an e-mail.

If you require additional tests on a sample our minimum storage time is 7 days so please contact us as soon as possible. Long term sample storage can be provided if required.

Transport Methods

All samples coming to the laboratory must be packaged to a high standard of containment and in such a way as to contain the contents in the event of a breakage if they are roughly handled or dropped. Pathology samples may contain infectious material and should be treated with care.

Samples should be transported in a suitable transport container designed for the purpose with sufficient absorbent material to absorb the entire liquid content. This should be placed in a zip lock bag. The request form should be placed in a separate pouch.

If the samples are being taken by hand to the laboratory they should be placed in either a transparent transport box (to allow examination prior to opening), with the lid securely sealed or they should be sealed in a suitable envelope. In the event of a leak being detected place the transport container in a plastic bag and take it directly to the laboratory for safe disposal.

If the samples are to be posted then pack as above using a suitable envelope and attach an address label with a UN3373 warning (available from the laboratory). If a large number of samples need to be posted we can provide suitable transport boxes.

If you require help setting up your own sample collection and handling procedures then please contact the laboratory and we can provide you with specimen policies that meet our requirements.

Laboratory Times

The laboratory is staffed between 08:30 and 17:00 Monday to Friday and between 09:00 and 13:00 on a Saturday. Telephone support is available outside these hours on 01483-450-388.

Samples can be left at the laboratory outside normal working hours.

Phlebotomy Times

Phlebotomy appointments are available Monday to Friday and between 08:30 and 16:30 and by special arrangement outside these times. A phlebotomy charge of £10.00 will be made for regular users or the patient can self-pay £15.00. Invoices can be sent to the referral clinic, to the patient or to the patient's insurance company. We can arrange home visits across the UK with prices between £50 and £100 depending on the location.

Customer Feedback

We value and welcome feedback from our customers. If you have any comments or suggestions please let us know as it is always useful for planning and improving our service. Please use Feedback Box in reception or the contact form on the website.

Quality Assurance and Accreditation

County Pathology is committed to providing a high quality service based on the standards set by the CPA (ISO 15189) and The Care Quality Commission. All our services are overseen by a consultant with suitable specialist qualifications and each test is regularly assessed against internal quality control samples and external quality assurance samples and our performance is peer reviewed.

Profiles

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Haematology

Haemoglobin (Hb)
Red Cell Count (RBC)
Packed Cell Volume (PCV)
Mean Cell Volume (MCV)
Platelets
White Blood Cells (WBC)
White Cell Differential
ESR

1

3 hours

Liver Function

Albumin
Protein
Bilirubin
ALP
ALT
AST
GGT
LDH

1

3 hours

Kidney Function

Albumin
Protein
Sodium
Potassium
Urea
Creatinine

1

3 hours

Bone Profile

Albumin
Protein
Calcium
Phosphate
ALP
Uric acid

1

3 hours

Lipid Profile

Cholesterol
Triglycerides
HDL
LDL
Lipid Profile

1

3 hours

Biochemistry

Liver Function
Kidney Function
Bone Profile
Glucose
Iron
Lipid Profile

1

1

3 hours

Biochem/Haem

Haematology
Biochemistry

1

1

1

3 hours

Anaemia Profile

Haematology
Serum Iron
Ferritin
Transferrin
B12/Folate

1

1

1 day

Biochemistry

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Test	Sample	TAT	Test	Sample	TAT
ACE	1	1 day	HDL Cholesterol	1	3 hrs
Albumin	1	3 hrs	Homocysteine	1	3 hrs
ALP	1	3 hrs	IgE	1	3 hrs
ALT	1	3 hrs	Immunoglobulins (IgG, IgM, IgA)	1	1 day
Amylase	1	1 day	Iron	1	3 hrs
AST	1	3 hrs	Iron studies (Fe Transferrin & Ferritin)	1	3 hrs
Bence-Jones Protein	RU	3 days	LDH	1	3 hrs
Beta 2 Microglobulin	1	2 days	LDL	1	3 hrs
Bicarbonate	1	3 hrs	Lipoprotein (a)	1	1 day
Bilirubin	1	3 hrs	Lipase	1	1 day
BNP (NT-proBNP)	1	3 hrs	Magnesium	1	3 hrs
Calcium	1	3 hrs	Microalbumin:Creatinine (Urine)	RU	1 day
Ceruloplasmin	1	2 days	NT-proBNP	1	3 hrs
Chloride	1	3 hrs	Phosphate	1	3 hrs
Cholesterol	1	3 hrs	Potassium	1	3 hrs
CK	1	3 hrs	Protein total	1	3 hrs
Copper	1	3 days	Protein:Creatine (Urine)	RU	1 day
Creatinine	1	3 hrs	Protein electrophoresis	1	3 days
CRP-HS	1	3 hrs	Sodium	1	3 hrs
Electrolytes (Serum)	1	3 hrs	Transferrin	1	3 hrs
Electrolytes (Urine)	24U	3 hrs	Triglycerides	1	3 hrs
Ferritin	1	3 hrs	Troponin T	1	3 hrs
Gamma GT	1	3 hrs	Urea	1	3 hrs
Glucose	1	3 hrs	Uric acid	1	3 hrs
HbA1C	1	1 day			

Haematology

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Test	Sample	TAT
aPTT	1	3 hrs
Blood Group	1	3 hrs
Blood film	1	3 hrs
Clotting Screen	1	3 hrs
Coombs' Test (DAT)	1	3 hrs
Erythropoietin	1	3 days
ESR	1	3 hrs
FDP's/D-Dimer	1	3 hrs
Fibrinogen	1	3 days
Folate (Red Cell)	1	3 days
Folate (Serum)	1	3 days
Full Blood Count	1	3 hrs
G6PD	1	3 days
Group & Red Cell Antibody Screen	1	3 days
Haemoglobin electrophoresis	1	3 days
INR	1	3 hrs
IM screen	1	3 hrs
Malarial Parasites (Incl FBC)	1	3 hrs
Protein C	1	3 days
Protein S	1	3 days
Prothrombin time	1	3 hrs
Reticulocytes	1	3 hrs
Schistosome antibodies	1	3 days
Sickle Cell Haemoglobin Screen	1	3 days
Thrombosis risk screen	3 1 1	3 days

Test	Sample	TAT
Thalassaemia screen	1	3 days
Vitamin B12	1	3 days
Von Willebrands screen	1	3 days

Thrombosis	Clotting Screen 1
Lupus screen Proteins C & S Antithrombin III Factor V Leiden Prothrombin Mutation MTHFR Gene Homocysteine 3 1 1	PT aPTT 1
5 days	3 hours
Clotting Screen 2	Anaemia Screen
PT aPTT Fibrinogen FBC 1 1	Haematology Serum Iron Ferritin Transferrin B12/Folate 1 1
1 day	1 day

Endocrinology

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Test	Sample	TAT
17 Hydroxy Progesterone	1	3 days
ACTH	1	3 days
AFP (Alpha-fetoprotein)	1	3 hrs
Aldosterone (Off drugs for 2 weeks)	1	3 days
Androstenedione	1	3 days
Antidiuretic Hormone (ADH)	1	3 days
Antimullerian Hormone (AMH)	1	3 days
Beta-HCG	1	3 hrs
Urine Catecholamines	24U	3 days
Cortisol	1	3 hrs
DHEA Sulphate	1	3 days
Dihydrotestosterone	1	3 days
FSH (Follicle stimulating hormone)	1	3 hrs
Growth Hormone	1	3 days
IGF-1 (Somatomedin)	1	3 days
Insulin	1	3 hrs
Inhibin B	1	3 days
LH(Luteinising hormone)	1	3 hrs
Melatonin	1	3 days
Oestradiol	1	3 hrs
Parathyroid hormone	1	3 days
Progesterone	1	3 hrs
Prolactin	1	3 hrs
Renin (Off drugs for 2 weeks)	1	3 days
SHBG	1	3 hrs

Test	Sample	TAT
Testosterone	1	3 hrs
Testosterone-Free	1	3 days
Thyroxine-Free (Free T4)	1	3 hrs
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)	1	3 hrs
Triiodothyronine-Free (Free T3)	1	3 hrs
Thyroid profile 1	1	3 hrs
Thyroid profile 2	1	3 hrs

Thyroid 1
Free Thyroxine (Free T4)
Thyroid Stim' Hormone (TSH)
1
3 hours

Thyroid 2
Free T4
TSH
Free T3
Thyroidperoxidase Abs
1
3 hours

Day 3 Female
LH
FSH
Prolactin
Oestradiol
Testosterone
SHBG
1
3 hours

Male Infertility
LH
FSH
Prolactin
Free Androgen Index
Testosterone
SHBG
1
3 hours

Test	Sample	TAT
CMV abs (Cytomegalovirus) IgG/M	1	3 days
EBV Profile	1	3 days
Helicobacter pylori IgG	1	3 days
Hepatitis A IgG/IgM	1	3 days
Hepatitis B Core Ab Total	1	1 day
Hepatitis B markers	1	3 days
Hepatitis B Surface antibody	1	1 day
Hepatitis B Surface antigen	1	1 day
Hepatitis B Viral Load	1	3 days
Hepatitis C IgG	1	1 day
Hepatitis C Viral Load	1	3 days
Herpes I & II abs	1	3 days
HIV abs 1 & 2 and p24 Ag	1	1 day
HIV, Hep B, Hep C early detection.	1	3 days
HPV(Human Papilloma Virus)	1	3 days
Measles IgG	1	1 day
Measles IgM	1	3 days
Mumps IgG	1	1 day
Mumps IgM	1	3 days
Rubella IgG	1	1 day
Rubella IgM	1	3 days
Toxoplasma IgG/M	1	3 days
Syphilis IgG	1	3 days
Varicella Zoster IgG (Chickenpox)	1	1 day
Varicella Zoster IgM (Chickenpox)	1	3 days

Hepatitis Screen

Hepatitis B Surface antigen
Hepatitis C IgG
Hepatitis A IgG/IgM

1

3 hours

Hepatitis B Profile

Hepatitis B Surface antigen
Hepatitis B Core Total Abs
Hepatitis B Core IgM Abs
Hepatitis B 'e' Ag
Hepatitis B 'e' IgG
Hepatitis B Surface Ab

1

3 hours

Immunity Screen

Measles IgG
Mumps IgG
Rubella IgG
Varicella Zoster IgG

1

3 hours

Lyme Screen

Borrelia IgG
Borrelia IgM
Borrelia Immunoblot

1

5 days

Bacteriology

Sexual Health Profiles

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Test	Sample	TAT
Blood culture	BC	3 days
Chlamydia PCR	PCR	3 days
Clostridium Difficile toxin-Faeces	RF	3 days
Faeces (M C & S)	RF	3 days
Fugal Culture and ID	PL	14 days
IUD	PL	3 days
Legionella-Urine	PL	1 day
MRSA by PCR	TS	1 day
MRSA by PCR x 5	TS	1 day
MRSA by culture	TS	2 days
Mycology	PL	14 days
Schistosoma-Urine	PL	3 days
Sputum-Routine	PL	3 days
Sputum & TB	PL	8 weeks
Swabs (Any Site)	TS	3 days
Synovial fluid	PL	3 days
TB culture	PL	8 weeks
TB Quantiferon	C	3 days
Urine (Protein glucose M C & S)	MSU	3 days
Urine microscopy	PL	3 hours
High Vaginal Swab	TS	3 days

Full Urine Screen

Chlamydia trachomatis
N.gonorrhoea
Mycoplasma genitalium
Ureaplasma
Trichomonas vaginalis
Gardnerella vaginalis
Herpes Simplex I/II

FCU

3 days

Full Blood Screen

HIV I & 2 Abs
HIV p24 Ag
Hepatitis C Ab
Hep B Sag
Syphilis IgG/IgM

1

2 days

Chlamydia/GC

Chlamydia trachomatis
N.gonorrhoea

FCU

2 days

Tumour Markers

Test	Sample	TAT
5HIAA (Carcinoid)	24U	3 days
AFP (Teratoma/Seminoma)	①	3 hrs
HCG-Beta (Teratoma/Seminoma)	①	3 hrs
β2 Microglobulin (Myeloma)	①	2 days
CA 50 (Bladder/Colon)	①	2 days
CA 19-9 (Pancreas)	①	1 day
CA 125 (Ovary)	①	3 hrs
CA 15-3 (Breast)	①	1 day
CEA (Colon)	①	1 day
CYFRA 21-1	①	2 days
Early CDT-Lung	①	5 days
HE4	①	1 day
PCA 3	RU	4 days
PSA (Prostate)	①	3 hrs
PSA-Free	①	1 day

Drugs

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Test	Sample	TAT
Amiodarone	①	3 days
Carbamazepine (Tegretol)	①	3 days
Digoxin (More than 6 hrs post dose)	①	1 day
Lamotrigine	①	3 days
Lithium	①	1 day
Methotrexate	①	3 days
Phenobarbitone	①	3 days
Phenytoin	①	3 days
Topiramate	①	3 days
Valproic acid	①	3 days

Drugs of Abuse

Amphetamines
 Barbiturates
 Benzodiazepines
 Cocaine
 Cannabis
 Opiates
 Tricyclic Antidepressants

①

1 hour

Histology/Cytology

Vitamins

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Test	Sample	TAT
Histology		
Category 1-Small	F	3-5 days
Category 2-Small Medium	F	3-5 days
Category 3-Medium	F	3-5 days
Category 4-Large	F	3-5 days
Category 5-Large complex	F	3-5 days
Cytology		
Fluid	P	3-5 days
ThinPrep Cervical Smear	TP	3-5 days
Thin Prep + STD Profile by PCR	TP	3-5 days
ThinPrep + HPV Screen	TP	3-5 days
ThinPrep + HPV identification	TP	3-5 days

Test	Sample	TAT
1,25 Vitamin D	① frozen	5 days
Vitamin A (retinol)	①	5 days
Vitamin B1 (Thiamine)	①	5 days
Vitamin B2 (riboflavin)	①	5 days
Vitamin B3 (nicotinamide)	①	5 days
Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine)	①	5 days
Vitamin B9 (Folic acid) – Red cell	①	5 days
Vitamin B9 (Folic acid) – serum	①	5 days
Vitamin B12 (active)	①	5 days
Vitamin C (active)	① frozen	5 days
Vitamin D (25-OH)	①	5 days
Vitamin E (alpha Tocopherol)	①	5 days

Vitamin Profile 1

Vitamin A
Beta Carotene
Vitamin B1
Vitamin B2
Vitamin B6
Vitamin C
Vitamin E

① ②

5 days

Vitamin Profile 2

Vitamin Profile 1
Vitamin B3
Vitamin B9 (Red Cell Folate)
Vitamin B12 (Active)
Vitamin D (25-OH)

② ③

5 days

Minerals-Blood

Test	Sample	TAT
Aluminium	①	5 days
Arsenic	① / ①	5 days
Cadmium	① / ①	5 days
Chromium	①	5 days
Cobalt	①	5 days
Copper	①	5 days
Lead	① / ①	5 days
Magnesium	①	1 days
Manganese	①	5 days
Mercury	① / ①	5 days
Nickel	①	5 days
Zinc	①	5 days

Minerals-Urine

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Test	Sample	TAT
Arsenic	RU	5 days
Cadmium	RU	5 days
Chromium	RU	5 days
Cobalt	RU	5 days
Copper	24U	5 days
Lead	RU	5 days
Magnesium	24U	1 days
Mercury	RU	5 days
Nickel	RU	5 days
Zinc	24U	5 days

Trace Metal Profile

Aluminium
Iron
Zinc
Copper
Mercury
Chromium
Manganese
Calcium
Magnesium
Cadmium
Lead

£96.00

5 days

Our IgE allergy tests are run on the gold standard Phadia platform. Allergens can be run as individual tests, mixes or as panels. The most common and useful panels are listed here.

We also offer an allergy screening service for £25.00, where the patient completes a questionnaire and is tested for the common inhalant allergens. An allergist will recommend further testing, if appropriate, based on the results of the questionnaire and the blood test.

Animals

Cat dander, Dog dander, Horse dander, Rodent mix (guinea pig, rabbit, hamster, rat, mouse)

3 days

Pollens

Birch, Grass mix (cocksfoot, meadow, meadow fescue, rye, timothy), Tree mix (alder, birch, hazel, oak, willow), Weed mix (dandelion, daisy, goldenrod, mugwort, plantain)

3 days

Eczema 2

Cat dander, Dog dander, Nuts 1 mix (peanut, hazelnut, brazil nut, almond), Nuts 2 Mix (pecan, cashew, pistachio, walnut)

3 days

Eczema 1

Dust mites (D pteronyssinus, D farinae), Seafood mix (cod, salmon, tuna, mussel, shrimp/prawn), Food mix (wheat, milk, egg, fish, peanut, soybean)

3 days

Mite & Mould

Dust mites (D pteronyssinus, D farinae), Feather mix (goose, chicken, duck, parrot), Mould mix (alternaria, aspergillus, candida, cladosporium, helminthosporium, penicillium)

3 days

Food Screen 2

Chickpea, Lupine seed, Buckwheat, Soybean

3 days

Food Screen 1

Seafood mix (cod, salmon, tuna, mussel, shrimp/prawn), Nuts 1 mix (peanut, hazelnut, brazil nut, almond), Nuts 2 mix (pecan, cashew, pistachio, walnut), Food mix (wheat, milk, egg, fish, peanut, soybean)

3 days

Food Screen 3

Mustard seed, Poppy seed, Sesame seed, Sunflower seed

3 days

Nuts 1

Peanut, Hazelnut, Brazil nut, Almond

3 days

Nuts 2

Pecan, Cashew, Pistachio, Walnut

3 days

Allergy

17

Peanut

Peanut Ara h1, Peanut Ara h2,
Peanut Ara h3, Peanut Ara h8

3 days

Fish

Fish (cod), Mackerel, Salmon,
Tuna

3 days

Meats

Beef, Chicken, Lamb, Pork

3 days

Bee & Wasp

Bee venom, Bee Api m1,
Wasp venom, Wasp Ves v5

3 days

Shellfish 1

Crab, Crayfish, Lobster,
Shrimp/prawn

3 days

Shellfish 2

Clam, Mussel, Oyster, Squid

3 days

Latex

Latex Hev b1, Latex Hev b3,
Latex Hev b5, Latex Hev
b6.01

3 days

Bakers Lung

Wheat, Rye, Alpha-Amylase

3 days

Egg & Milk

Egg white (hen), Ovomucoid,
Milk (cow), Casein

3 days

Cereals & Wheat

Cereal mix (wheat, oat, maize/corn,
sesame seed, buckwheat), Gliadin
(wheat), Gliadin ω 5, Coeliac
test (tTG)

3 days

Oral Allergy 1

Birch Bet v1, Peach Pru p3,
Hazelnut Cor a1, Fruits mix
(apple, pear, peach, cherry, plum)

3 days

Oral Allergy 2

Latex Hev b6.01, Avocado,
Banana, Kiwi fruit

3 days

Sample Requirements

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1	Gold	Serum Gel	3.5 or 5ml
1	Lavender	EDTA	4 or 10ml
1	Grey	Fluoride	2 or 4ml
1	Light-Blue	Citrate	4.5ml
1	Green	Heparin Gel	3.5 or 5ml
1	Dark-Blue	Serum-Trace elements	5ml

FCU	Plain 30 ml tube First Catch Urine-5ml
24U	Plain 30ml tube 24 Hour Urine or 30ml aliquot with volume.
RU	Plain 30 ml tube Random Urine
EMU	Plain 30 ml Tube Early Morning Urine
MSU	Boric Acid Mid Stream Urine
RF	Plain tube 30 ml Blue Random Faeces
BC	Blood Culture Bottle
TP	ThinPrep Vial
F	Formalin
TS	Blue Transport Swab
PCR	PCR Swab Purple-Female, Blue-Male
VS	Green Virology Swab
PL	Plain 30ml tube
C	Contact Lab (Special Bottles)

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